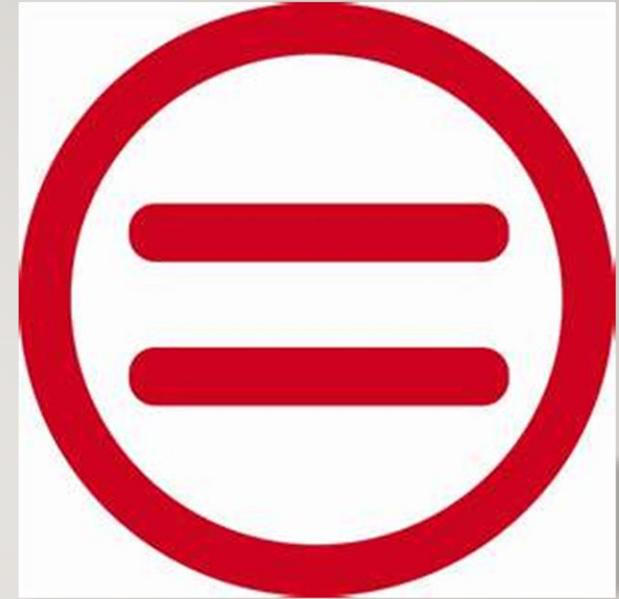


SHENANGO VALLEY  
URBAN LEAGUE, INC.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

[WWW.SVURBANLEAGUE.ORG](http://WWW.SVURBANLEAGUE.ORG)



# SHENANGO VALLEY URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **Executive Committee**

Joseph Walsh-Board Chair

Christine Burger

Denise Jarrett

Ronald Heiman, Esq.

### **Members**

Cinnamon Cannon-Price

Autumn Johnson, Esq.

Kavon Wright

Michael Muha, Esq.

Deborah Stiger

Fred Leeds

Jeremy Coxe

# MISSION AND VISION

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The mission of the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. is to ensure equal access and opportunity for African-Americans and others in need to empower individuals to cultivate and exercise their full human potential. The Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. implements its mission through advocacy, bridge building and program services.

Our vision is a community where all citizens have equal opportunity to achieve their fullest potential, where everyone contributes to improving the quality of life and shares in prosperity.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO & BOARD CHAIR

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The Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. prides itself on being an outlet for individuals in need through our health & welfare, housing, and education services. As it is our mission to encourage and empower individuals in Mercer County to reach their full potential, we will continue to advocate for social justice and equality for all individuals. Through our programming, we will continue to make great impacts on youth and adults and provide them with the education and resources that are necessary during their time of need. With many obstacles such as unemployment, and lack of food, the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. strives to provide supportive outreach initiatives and programs in the areas most needed by the community. Furthermore, the partnership with the United Way of Mercer County is invaluable and through co-branding efforts we will collectively work toward lifting families out of poverty. Through these efforts, the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. Board of Directors and staff will continue to focus on serving diverse populations throughout Mercer County.



# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Dr. Erin R. Houston-President/CEO

Raymond Bianco-Fiscal Director

Tami Hammond-Housing Director

Corwin Somerset-Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Lampkins-WIC Director

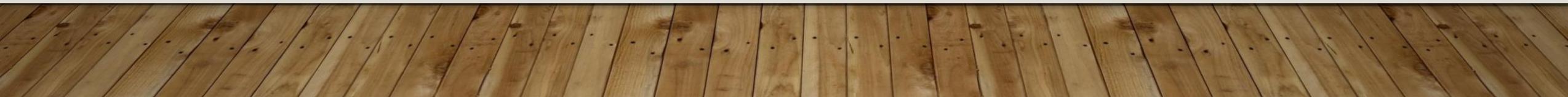
Cornelius Holmes-WIC Fiscal Administrator

Teresa Hall-Housing Assistant

Lori Graham-Administrative Assistant

## **MAINTENANCE**

Bruce Barfield



# WIC STAFF

## WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

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Patrice Lee, NT

Lori Kocholek, PC

Emily Hodge, CPA

Lauriethel Ward, RS/OC-CIT

Marci Cirell, CPA/NE-BFC

Jill Davis, CPA

Joyce Harrison, Administrative Assistant

Erica Peiffer, CPA

Mandy Marsh, NT/PC-OM

Pamela Shepard, NT

Lesley Martin, CPA

Bobbi Jo Horn, PC

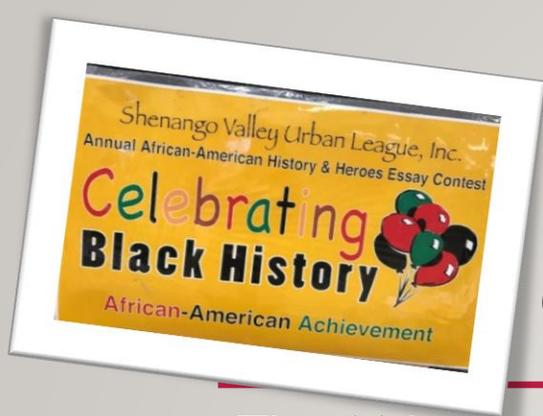
Education



# REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF REMEMBRANCE BREAKFAST

Held at the Park Inn Radisson, the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. observed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the MLK Day of Remembrance Breakfast. A “day on” and not a day off, we invited the community to honor the work, memory, and legacy of Dr. King while youth, Jacara Green, Jade Fletcher and Amira McLean, members our the Urban League’s Nulites program reflected on how the leadership of Dr. King has impacted their lives today. The keynote address focused on racism and social injustices of today was given by Rev. Betty Lee, Pastor of Hour of Power Full Gospel Tabernacle, Farrell, PA.





# BLACK HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST & LUNCHEON

The 44th Annual Black History & Heroes Essay Contest was held throughout several local school districts in Mercer County. Fifth and Sixth grade students submitted essays on their favorite African American heroes and detailed how they have impacted the culture and society overall. First place and honorable mention winners are honored at an annual luncheon that rotates each year to a different school district. This contest provides students, parents, and the community an opportunity to learn about many civil rights leaders and African American inventors. This year the luncheon was held at Farrell High School.

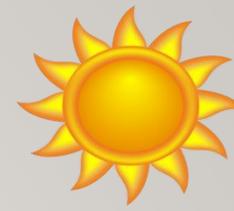
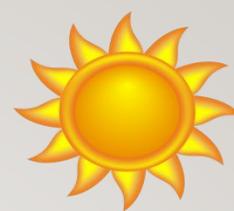
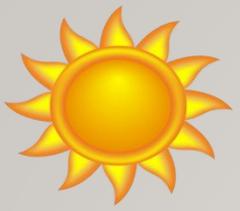


# FRANK J. NAGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESSAY CONTEST

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The Education Department conducted its fifth essay contest for a \$1,000 scholarship award. High School Seniors from throughout Mercer could submit an essay responding in 500 words to the question, “how you have demonstrated leadership ability both academically and socially and what role you have played in making a positive impact in the urban community. Essay submissions were submitted from Mercer County high schools. After a committee of community judges read and scored the essays a first place winner was selected. Amira McLean, a senior at Farrell High School was the 2018 recipient and winner of the Frank J. Nagy Scholarship and was recognized and awarded at Farrell High School’s senior recognition day. The scholarship fund provides financial support to a deserving Mercer County student and highlights our commitment to education.





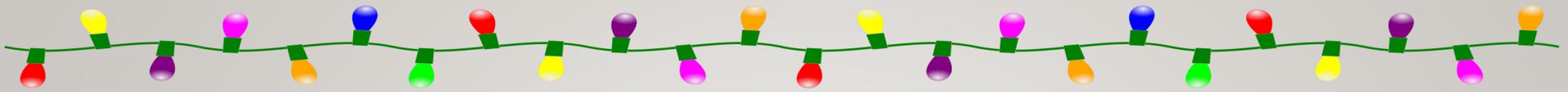
# SUMMER YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

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The Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program provides Mercer County students (age 12-15) an opportunity to job shadow different career fields and earn a stipend. First beginning in the mid 1990's, this program has impacted many students, the majority of whom have graduated high school and have gone to college or military. This program operates from the end of June-mid August each summer and works with students on developing leadership skills, social skills, and life skills. Components of the program include, one-on-one interviewing, weekly enrichment group sessions, lunch with leaders series, career camp, and job shadowing. Students who successfully complete the program receive a stipend, achievement awards, commemorative t-shirt, and certificate of completion at the conclusion of the program.





# FALL GIVE BACK



Student participants in the Nulites and Summer Youth Apprenticeship programs participated in a community service project to understand the importance of service learning. Youth and staff collected specific items for AWARE, an organization that assists women of domestic violence during our Annual Secret Santa Christmas Gift Collection. The items were a part of AWARE's "wish list" and helped defray costs of having to purchase the items themselves.

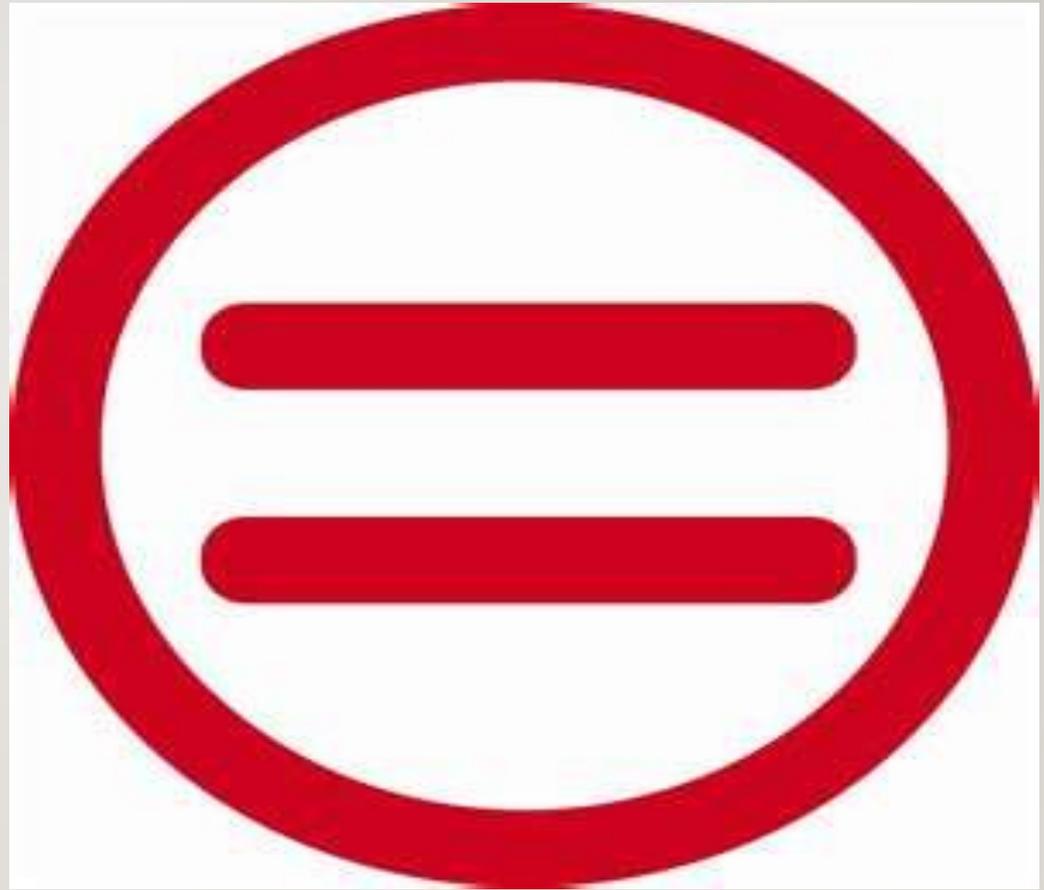


# YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

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- Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program: 17
- African American History & Hero Essay Contest: 492
- Frank J. Nagy Scholarship Essay Contest: 7
- Urban Scholars & Educators Awards: 3
- NULITES: 6





# Human Relations & Employment



# HUMAN RELATIONS

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The purpose of this program is to provide service to clients in Mercer County seeking human relations assistance in the areas of employment, education, public accommodation, and housing.

Total number of complaints received: 7

Total number of cities and municipalities where complaints were: 2

## **Program highlights:**

Continue to assist the community, providing human relations services

Act as mediator to work out an amicable solution between parties involved in a complaint

Continue to provide up to date information regarding human relations issues to the general public and cooperate with the PA Human Relations Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

# EMPLOYMENT

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- The employment department addresses the job needs of the community. Resume and cover letter development, job search , and skills assessments are provided to individuals seeking full or part time employment.
- **Program highlights:**
- Performed ongoing job search and placement for 13 individuals
- Served as a resource for 7 employers
- Resumes and cover letters were prepared or updated for 13 individuals
- Total number of cities and municipalities where clients resided: 3

# Housing



# HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HAP)

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**192**

Households served

Provided Mortgage  
Foreclosure

Assistance to 40  
families

**453** adults and  
children served in  
total

# RENT ASSISTANCE

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The Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. has been designated by the Mercer County Commissioners to administer the HAP Program. The purpose of the HAP program is two-fold; 1.) the program assists Mercer County residents in need of acquiring or maintaining rental housing and 2.) the program provides funding to the Emergency Shelter Program administered by the Salvation Army.

The types of assistance consist of rental counseling, unit search, budget counseling, and a financial grant of \$350.00 toward the first month's rent or the delinquent rent. All applicants must have a face-to-face interview with the Housing Counselor.

# EMERGENCY SHELTER

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In the Emergency Shelter Program administered by the Salvation Army, emergency shelter is defined as housing individuals facing imminent crisis with temporary overnight housing up to a period of one week. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Salvation Army provided housing for 291 Mercer County adults and children. The amount of money sub-granted from the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. to the Salvation Army was \$7,741.00



# HOMEOWNERS EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEMAP)

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The Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. is certified by HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to provide mortgage default counseling to homeowners facing foreclosure. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. processed 40 applications to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) for emergency mortgage loan assistance through the states Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program.



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- Emergency shelter assistance provided by the Salvation Army, sub recipient of the Urban League, to 274 individual households that supported a cumulative total of 385 adults and children.
  - Provided financial support of \$58,571.00 in rental assistance and \$7,741.00 for emergency shelter.
  - From July 2017-June 2018, 1,592 housing inquiries came in to the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc.



Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)



**CHOOSE HEALTHY.  
CHOOSE WIC!**

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## **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the sole funding source for the WIC Program and provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

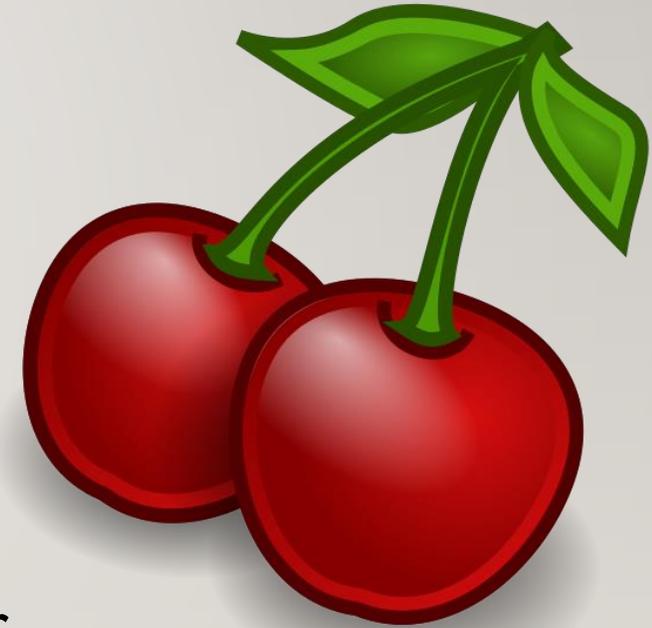
WIC was authorized by Congress in 1972 and was implemented in Pennsylvania in May 1974.

The program is administered through contracts with county and private non-profit agencies that deliver WIC services locally in all 67 counties at about 270 sites. SVUL has been providing WIC services since April 1, 1978.

## HOW DOES WIC HELP FAMILIES?

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- 1.) Offers screenings and referrals to health care and other services such as, iron testing, referrals to SNAP, MA, TANF, Chip, Healthy Beginning Plus, Head Start
- 2.) Gives advice for healthy eating with nutrition materials and one-on-one nutrition education
- 3.) Supports breastfeeding even if mothers return to work
- 4.) Provides healthy food such as milk, cheese, peanut butter, whole grains, and eggs to name a few essentials



# WIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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Received continued funding from Pennsylvania Department of Health in the amount of \$88,094.00 for the WIC and Peer Counselor Project for FFY October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

Provided service in Mercer, Venango & Forest counties, with an average participation of 3,100 clients per year.



# NUTRITION EDUCATION AND BREASTFEEDING GOALS

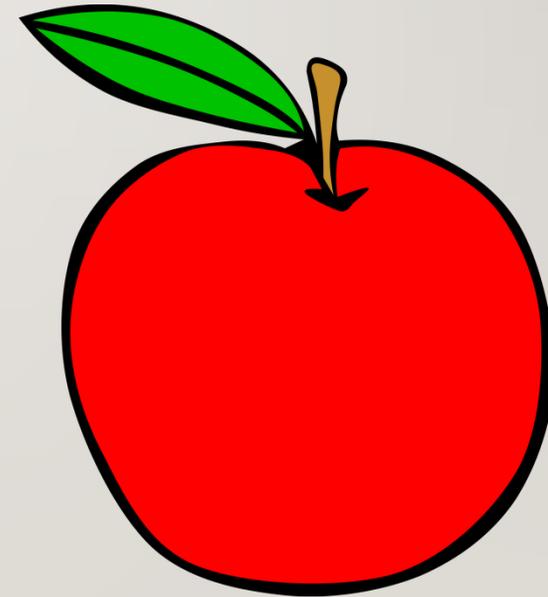
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## **Nutrition Goals**

- To ensure all CPA's are trained on how to conduct WIC assessments using the PENN system
- Evaluate how staff are conducting WIC assessments in PENN system and determine needs to improve confidence, competency, and/or efficiency

## **Breastfeeding Goals**

To ensure staff are trained on how to conduct and document breastfeeding assessment using the PENN system



# WIC BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM

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## **“A Breastfeeding Support Program for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women”**

- The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program is a support program for pregnant and breastfeeding women to help women initiate and continue breastfeeding with the help of Peer Counselors who are trained to assist by offering breastfeeding education, support and role modeling.
- The breastfeeding peer counselor are mothers who have breastfed and have personal experience with breastfeeding and are trained to provides valuable support to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates.
- The program is funded by USDA using the “Loving Support Model” to for a successful Peer Counseling Program for WIC.
- To learn more about the WIC and Peer Counseling Program, check online at [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov) or [www.pawic.com](http://www.pawic.com), or call 1-800-WIC-WINS (1-800-942-9467).